

SAR Consultancy

(Security Analysis & Research)

SECURITY INFORMATION BULLETIN

NIGERIA

January 2017



Summary of Security Situation in Nigeria

The Security Situation in Nigeria is multi-dimensional and complex. It is influenced, for the most part, by perceived political, economic and social injustice, which results in a high level of violence throughout the country. This violence is exhibited in differing dimensions and to differing degrees from state to state and region to region. This level of unrest and complexity provides the environment for more opportunistic types of criminal and militant activities to take place. Deconstructing the relationships between all these factors and influencers is very difficult and contributes to the complexity that surrounds the security situation in Nigeria. Another dimension which adds to this complexity is the diversity with regard to the actors at play throughout the country. Violence is perpetrated by a wide range of groups, such as insurgents, militants, nomadic herdsmen, cultists, and ordinary criminals, notwithstanding the allegations of security force involvement and alleged political interference. This interplay of actors makes it difficult to determine the perpetrator and the victim in many cases.

Nigeria is a country with specific needs, both development and increasingly, humanitarian, therefore access for international and domestic NGOs and developmental organisations is a must. It is a country with a potential for great growth in a wide number of commercial areas; as a result it is an attractive country to commercial organisations. These access requirements, coupled with the security environment, results in a need for up to date and thorough analysis of the security situation across the country on a regular basis. Forecasting the likely evolution of the security situation for the short and medium term can be difficult, due in part to the influence of underlying elements of a political, economic and social nature, which impact differently throughout the country. Nonetheless, the presence of existing trends and patterns can assist greatly in strengthening the credibility of forecasts.

January 2017 – While 2016 may be noted for increased military operations in the North East against Boko Haram, reports of the groups’ demise, regaining of territory formerly under the groups’ control, amongst other things, 2017 started with a clear indication that Boko Haram have not gone away and still, despite being weakened and displaced, retain the capacity, capabilities and desire to continue their insurgency. As noted by SAR previously, this pattern of peaks and valleys with attack and retreat is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. A dislocated enemy is harder to contain and requires greater resources, making it ever more difficult for the security forces to achieve significant impacts, similar to last year. Furthermore, the security forces are likely to have their resources stretched further this year. This month has shown that the security situation in other parts of the country are also precarious. Clashes in the middle belt claimed the lives of more people than lost in the North East. While violent crime, kidnap and robberies continue throughout the country. The risk of abduction, violence and criminality are likely to continue, with certain areas posing greater risk, in Lagos for example. As a result, SAR advises all those living in or traveling to and through Nigeria to review their journey management plans frequently due to the nature and fluidity of risk associated with Nigeria. Make security a regular part of your planning process, make it part of your enabling strategy and allow it to better help you achieve your goals and targets, which can be achieved despite this challenging environment.



North East Nigeria & Boko Haram

January 2017 started with an apparent upsurge in incidents of note in the NE of Nigeria. Favoured modes of attack included the continued use of suicide bombers, with at least 5 reported during the month. Adamawa State experienced two such incidents. The first was an attempted attack by suspected suicide bombers in Dar village, which was reportedly repelled by the Nigerian military. However, in the middle of the month, three others detonated themselves, killing themselves and at least eight others in a motor park, in Madagali.

Maiduguri also witnessed its own fair share of suicide or attempted suicide attacks this month. In the first week of the month, multiple explosions were reported in the city, when suspected suicide bombers reportedly targeted a number of locations at the same time. At least 8 people were reportedly killed in the incidents. In the middle of the month, two suicide bombers reportedly killed themselves at a mosque in the University of Maiduguri. A Professor and two others were killed in the incident. Near the end of the month a male suicide bomber reportedly detonated an IED at a mosque in Dalori District, on the outskirts of Maiduguri. One person was reportedly killed.

The group also continued to attack villages during the month. A village was reportedly targeted in Askira LGA. Approximately eight people were killed and a female abducted. That said, the group still appear to have the capacity to maximise opportunities from the military successes, especially with regard to the reopening of roads in Borno state. Similar to previous attacks, the group reportedly attacked a convoy of motorists on the road between Maiduguri and Biu. At least seven people were reportedly killed and others injured. The convoy had a military escort at the time

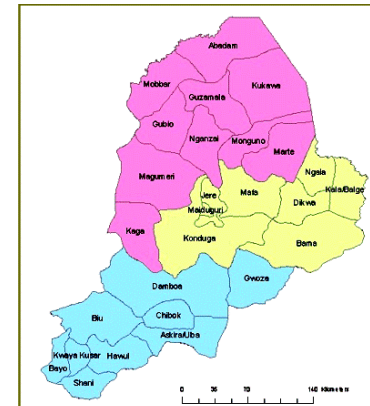
of the incident. As IDPs return home and other roads open, the group are likely to continue to maximise the opportunity associated with the increased movement of people to cause fear and destruction in their wake.

This attack on the convoy illustrates that Boko Haram are not deterred from attacking military targets. A number of other incidents this month also illustrate this point. For example, the group were suspected of planting an explosive on a roadway, which detonated killing two soldiers and damaging a tank. The planting of explosives illustrates the risk for those travelling deeper into Borno State and also for those who are moving back to their home lands. In a separate incident, the group reportedly killed three soldiers in a clash in Kukawa. Other reports suggest that they lost ten of their own members. In Kamuya, Yobe State, the group reportedly attacked a military base. However, the attack was repelled by troops, with reinforcement from Buni Yadi.

Despite this, the military continued their operations. Fifteen suspected insurgents were killed in Kala/Balge. They also foiled a number of suspected suicide bombers at a mosque and a check point. Unfortunately, the military reported a number of casualties this month. They lost at least one officer and four soldiers in clashes with Boko Haram whilst conducting a clearance operation in Chukun Gudu.

Forecast: *If 2016 was marked with reports of increased military operations, of the demise of Boko Haram and the regaining of occupied territory in the North East, 2017 has started with clear indicators that there is a lot left to do. Furthermore, as noted by SAR and other analysts, such incidents make it difficult to reconcile reports from the military about the alleged defeat of the group. While it is once again*

noted that the military advances in the North East have weakened Boko Haram, the incidents this month are testament that the group are in no way destroyed. This is not a surprise and their pattern of attack is something forecasted by us at SAR and many other analysts. The group have shown throughout their history that they can work effectively as a splintered organisation when required. This month they clearly illustrated their continued capacity, commitment and determination to attack both hard and soft targets, despite of reports that they had lost all their key command posts.



There are a number of other interesting elements arising this month. For example, the incidents in Maiduguri illustrate how the group would appear to have found ways to circumvent the security infrastructure in place in the city. While the number of suicide bomb attacks and foiled attacks illustrates the high number of individuals the group has at their disposal to attempt such attacks and also the amount of explosives and supplies they have to make the vests. The desired targets for suicide bombs would appear to include checkpoints, motor parks, markets and mosques. While it may be thought that such attacks alongside village attacks are on soft targets, the groups have demonstrated their ability and willingness to attack harder, militarised targets. This is clearly apparent in the attempted attack in Yobe State. It is unlikely that there will be any significant reduction in incidents in the medium term.

Communal Clashes

January 2017 started with a bang in respect to communal clashes throughout the middle belt. Similar to seasonal patterns, the frequency of violent clashes between communities and herdsmen increased. This is likely to be due, in part, to an increased movement of livestock in search of new grass. Very few states in the middle belt were immune from attacks this month. For example, despite President Buhari recent orders to implement effective measures in the southern part of Kaduna State to end such violence, incidents continued. During the month, three people were reportedly killed in clashes in Zangon Kataf, Kaduna and a further six, one of which was reportedly a teenager were killed in a separate incident. In Benue State, an incident in Okpokwu claimed five lives.

If Adamawa State did not have enough to manage with an apparent increase in suspected Boko Haram related incidents this month, they do suffered from clashes between communities and herdsmen. An incident in Demsa, reportedly witnessed the deaths of four or five police officers. Reports about the civilian casualties ranged from 2 to 40 deaths. In a second incident later in the month, approximately 10 people were reportedly killed. This reportedly occurred in Ajegbe and Ipiga village. In addition, at least one person was killed and 3 others injured in Girei LGA. The incident reportedly occurred when herdsmen attacked the village. Similar violence was also reported from Niger State. Three incidents, only days apart, in Bosso lead to the deaths of at least 22

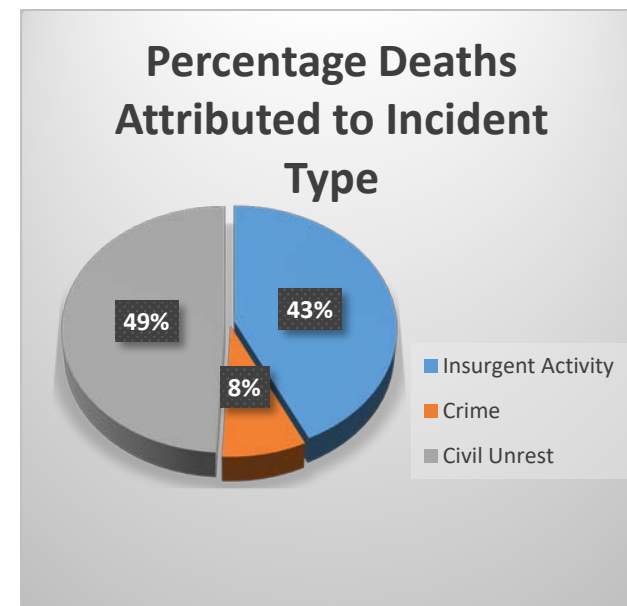
individuals. It is highly likely these incidents were related and were retaliatory in nature. In an incident in Taraba State, at least 10 people were reportedly killed and several houses burnt down youths from a local village allegedly attached Fulani settlements. While an attack on Mambilla village in Plateau State resulted in approximately 50 homes being burnt down in two neighbouring villages.

Forecast: *The number of incidents of clashes between herdsmen and farmers is likely to be attributable, in part, to the seasonal movement of cattle to new grass. If this is the case, such incidents are not only likely to continue, but are most likely to increase significantly in the short term. This is likely to result in a further increase in the loss of life and destruction of property, on all sides. While much of this violence is community based and very target specific, those travelling to or through villages in the middle belt may inadvertently come in contact with such incidents. Therefore, it is advised to monitor such incidents closely, to ensure a high level of awareness of the environment into which one is entering.*

Loss of Life

While it is acknowledged that exact death rates in the aftermath of incidents in Nigeria are hard to assess. From the data that is available, it would appear that more people lost their lives from incidents attributed to clashes between herdsmen and farmers this month than those attributed to Boko Haram or in retaliation to their activities. This is not new, a number of

analysts have raised similar observations in the past. However, deaths associated with such clashes appear to garner less media attention, especially internationally than Boko Haram related incidents.



An armed group reportedly attacked a UN technical team working along the border between Cameroon and Nigeria. The incident reportedly took place in Koncha, Cameroon. A UN contractor, three Nigerians and a Cameroonian were reportedly killed. Many speculated that Boko Haram were responsible, but this is still unclear, made more difficult by no claim of responsibility. The team had an escort at the time of the incident.

Criminality, Cultist activity & Violence

Violent clashes broke out between cultists and Nigerian Soldiers in Ogba/Ebema/Ndoni in Rivers State this month. Two soldiers and five cultists were reportedly killed in the incident. While ten people were reportedly killed in clashes in Obubra, Cross River and a further five in Itu, Akwa Ibom. Also in the South, members of the JTF allegedly killed two criminals following a shootout near Obama Flow Station in Nembe LGA. Further north in Plateau State unknown gunmen were reported to have attacked a police station in Dengi, killing a police officer and stealing several weapons. While in Benue State, gunmen reportedly killed ten members of the CJTF in Katsina-Ala.

Forecast: *As noted in the past, such levels of armed violence throughout Nigeria are nothing new.. The use of weapons is a relatively common element of criminality in the country. This is unlikely to change even in the long term due, in part, to the prevalence and easy access to weapons. While much of this violence is targeted, innocent by-standers can fall victim if in the wrong place at the wrong time. As a result, SAR advises all those travelling to or living in Nigeria to regularly review your security arrangements to ensure a level of preparedness at all times. Vigilance and preparedness are important factors in keeping safe.*

Niger Delta Region

Incidents continued in the Niger Delta region this month. However, such incidents did not continue at

Temporary Closure of Abuja Airport

The Nigerian Government announced the proposed temporary closure of Abuja's International Airport on 8th March 2017, for a period of 6 weeks. It has been stated that flights will be diverted to Kaduna International Airport.

Lufthansa & Air France have, reportedly, announced they will temporarily suspend flights to Abuja during the period of repair.

SAR Recommends a Review of Travel Security Measures if using flights to Kaduna or other airports in Nigeria to travel to Abuja.

Re-assess the applicability of current travel management plans, and review as necessary

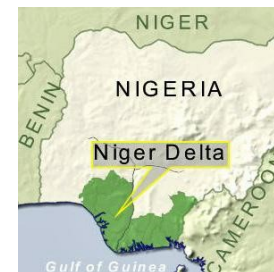
Review contingency plans, as this is likely to require planning in regard to medical assistance, overnight accommodation, secure parking, etc.

Brief staff on amended measures

Double check insurance implications

Remain in regular contact with your Airline.

the rate witnessed in 2016. One report emerged during the month, which claimed that militants reportedly blew up a pipeline in Ughelli South, Delta. However, the Joint Military Operation team in the region reportedly denied the incident had occurred. Such rebuttal was intended to reduce the risk of a further rise in tensions in the region. The Nigerian Government gave their commitment to pay the monies owed to former militants under the amnesty agreement soon; until such time the militants have been asked for patients. Any escalation of tensions and attacks is undesirable at this time.



Forecast: *Despite the apparent reduction in attacks in the Niger Delta region this month, the problem is unlikely to have gone away entirely. Many of the emerging militant groups are not included in the amnesty programme and therefore are likely to feel further aggrieved if they see continued amnesty payments to the original beneficiaries. That said, given the economic situation in Nigeria, it is likely that the government will do as much as possible to lower tensions in the region, which may include such militant groups. That said, the Niger Delta region is so depleted in resources, services, facilities, etc. money alone is unlikely to solve the problem. As a result, while the number of incidents may remain low for a short to medium term, further incidents cannot and should not be ruled out.*

Abduction & Kidnap

This month saw reports that two Turkish teachers and three students were abducted from a school in Ogun State. They were later released and four suspects were arrested. While in Kogi State, at least four people were reportedly kidnapped in different incidents but over a three day period. This resulted in a call for increased security in Kogi State. Lagos State also took action against kidnapers recently. Governor Ambode has signed into law a law which provides for the death penalty or life imprisonment for those who kidnap or abduct someone else.

Forecast: *These incidents serve to illustrate the continued risk of abduction in Nigeria. There would appear to be increasing sentiment that the problem is getting more prolific, despite being relatively common in Nigeria. This threat is likely to remain in place in the short and medium term as either factor mentioned above are unlikely to change within this timeframe. As a result, all organisations and individuals are advised to assess whether their anti-abduction measures are sufficient and take necessary precautions if not.*

Factors worth monitoring

The humanitarian situation in the North East is becoming more serious by the day. The continued insecurity is making the delivery of aid increasingly problematic. Attacks on convoys illustrate the ability and desire of militants to maximise the opportunistic targets available to them. It is unlikely that INGOs and NGOs will be immune to these risks going

For further information, please contact SAR Consultancy @ info@sarconint.com or www.sarconint.com ; follow on twitter @SAR_Consultancy. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from SAR Consultancy. SAR Consultancy is an Irish registered trading name. Copyright ©SAR Consultancy 2017.



SAR Consultancy

Providing peace of mind in changing security environments

SECURITY AUDIT & REVIEW

Security Management is critical in today's challenging environment, regardless of industry or scale of organisation. But is having a security management plan in place enough?

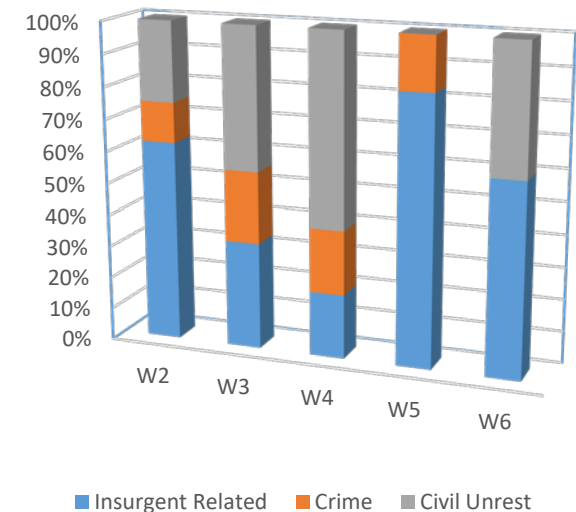
We, at SAR, think the presence of a security management plan is not enough. All organisations, regardless of industry or scale require a regular systematic assessment of existing security infrastructure.

Contact us at SAR to discuss your 2017 audit; you have a duty of care to your employees to ensure your security infrastructure is fit for purpose. Don't wait for an incident to influence a review.

forward. That said, through the support of local agencies, a high awareness of the dynamics in certain environments and flexibility, much can be achieved within acceptable safety limits.

This month witnessed a major military error by the Nigerian Military. The Air Force bombed a refugee camp in Kala/Balge, Borno State. It is estimated that over 200 people were killed in the incident, the majority of whom were IDPs. Some staff of INGOs and local NGOs were also killed. The Federal Government reportedly ordered a thorough investigation of the incident.

Percentage of Incidents Per Week/Incident Type



SAR Consultancy would like to thank you for taking the time to read this bulletin. We hope you found it interesting and informative. Please do not hesitate to contact us at info@sarconint.com to discuss any part in greater detail or to discuss how we may be able to help reduce your exposure to any of the risks mentioned within. Furthermore we are very happy to receive feedback on your thoughts regarding the bulletin. Hope to see you again next month.